

Section 8

Emergencies

Vehicle Emergencies

Off Road Recovery

Dealing with Skids

Winter Driving

Avoiding Collisions

Crashes with Animals

Protect Yourself in Collisions

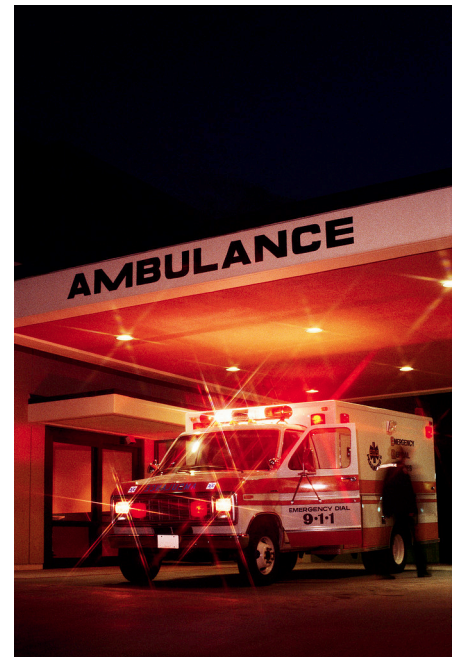
Crashes

Motor Vehicle Insurance



What Drivers Need to Know

- Slow down in bad weather
- Use headlights all the time
- Use adequate following distance
- Give space to emergency vehicles
- Don't Drink and Drive
- Trip Planning – Bring emergency supplies and warm coats in cold weather



Emergencies – How to Handle Them

There is always a chance of car problems while you drive. You will have fewer car problems when you keep your car in good shape. Your car owner's manual tells what you should do when specific car problems occur.



Brakes Stop Working

1. Keep eyes on target area – where you want your car to go
2. Control steering
3. Pump the brakes quickly several times
4. Shift to a lower gear
5. Use the parking brake to slow or stop. Put it on slowly so you don't lock the wheels, causing you to skid.
6. Look for a safe place to stop or find a soft crash area
7. If necessary, get your car off the road.
8. Don't drive until the brakes are fixed!



Tire Blowout

If a tire suddenly goes flat:

1. Hold the steering wheel tight
2. Steer where you want the car to go
3. Slow down. Take your foot off the gas
4. Stay off the brakes until you are almost stopped
5. Control Steering
6. Find a safe place to pull off the road



Hood Flies up

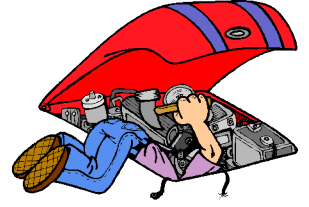
1. Look through the space at the bottom of your windshield to maintain an open line of sight.
2. Steer to the side of the road and stop
3. Secure the hood



Engine Quits

This could happen when the engine becomes flooded, overheats or is simply out of gas.

1. Keep eyes on target area – where you want your car to go
2. Stay off the brake – you may need the momentum to pull off the road
3. The car may be hard to steer. Hold the steering wheel tight. Don't turn the key to "off"
4. Pull safely off the road. Brakes will work but you will have to push hard on the pedal.



Headlights Quit Working

Try the switch a few times. If that doesn't work, put on the high beams, 4-way flashers, turn signals or fog lights.

Pull off the road as soon as it is safe for you to do so.

Gas Pedal Sticks

If the engine keeps going faster and faster this could be caused by a broken spring or the gas pedal being stuck in the down position. You should shift to neutral and apply steady pressure on the brake.

1. Watch the road!
2. Shift to neutral
3. Search for an escape path
4. Steer smoothly and brake gently
5. Pull off the road when it is safe
6. Turn off the engine.

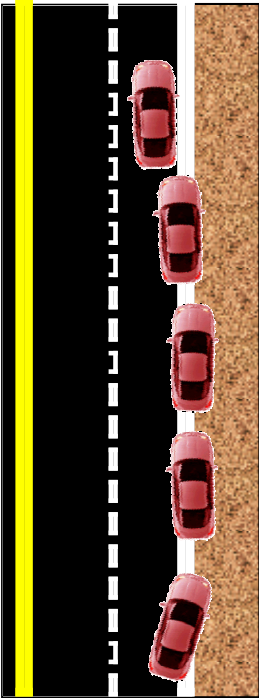


DO NOT reach down to pull the stuck pedal up until stopped.

Engine Fire

If the car catches on fire from fuel leaks or electrical problems quick action is needed! Steer the vehicle out of traffic and away from buildings and people. Turn off the ignition. Have all occupants leave the vehicle immediately and move away. Do not open the hood.

Off Road Recovery - Wheel off the Road



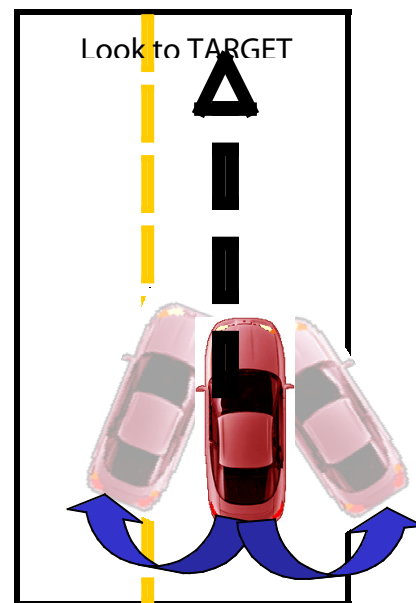
Drifting off the road is often caused by fatigue or inattention. If your right wheel drops off the edge, take your foot off the gas. When you are slowed down, ease back on the road when it is safe to do so.

- Check traffic
- Reduce speed to about 10 mph without using the brakes
- Move the vehicle so that it straddles the roadway edge
- If necessary, brake lightly, check traffic again
- Signal to return to the roadway
- Select a level location for returning to the road
- With hands at 9 and 3 o'clock, turn the steering wheel no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ to turn back onto the road
- Look to the target and return to lane

Dealing with Skids

When your car starts to skid:

- Look where you want to go
- Ease off the gas pedal to slow down
- Don't apply the brakes
- Steer where you want to go



Winter Driving

Bring food, water, first aid kit and blankets or a sleeping bag when you plan a long trip.

When driving in stormy weather – snow, fog or rain:

- Slow down. Turn your headlights on low beam and stop in a safe place if you cannot see the roadway.
- If there is a lot of snow, you might be required to have winter tires or tire chains.
- Turn on your windshield wipers if needed.
- Increase your following distance.



If you become STUCK in the snow:

Don't panic.

STAY IN THE CAR. You are more likely to be found.

Keep a window slightly open.

Don't let the snow block the exhaust pipe.

Keep moving your arms and legs.

Run your engine and heater sparingly.

Take turns keeping watch.

Keep an emergency winter driving kit in your car. Use a plastic crate or a duffel bag to store the following items in the trunk of your car: flashlights with extra batteries, first aid kit with a pocket knife, at least one blanket or sleeping bag, extra mittens, socks and a wool cap, small sack of sand or cat litter for generating traction under the wheels, a small shovel, bottled water, booster cables and canned fruit, nuts and a can opener.

SNOW PLOWS

Don't ever pass a snow plow. Wing plows are eight feet wide. Plow drivers may not see you in the blowing snow and drivers can't see the road ahead.



AVOIDING CRASHES

Most of the time you can do things that will keep you from having a crash. There are three things you can do that will help you avoid a crash: **STOP, SPEED UP or TURN.**

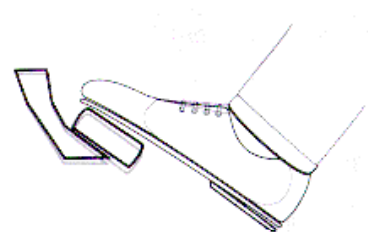


Stopping Fast

Most new cars have anti-lock brakes (ABS). Read your car owner's manual on how to use them. ABS will help you stop with less skidding. ABS keeps the wheels from locking up. When you need to stop quickly, here are some things to do:

With ABS Brakes

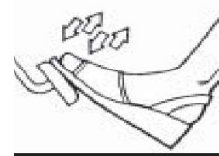
Push the brake pedal as hard as you can and hold it down. Keep pushing on it. Don't let up. ABS brakes will vibrate and be noisy. ABS will only work when the brake pedal is pushed down hard and kept there.



Without ABS Brakes

Push on the brake pedal as hard as you can without locking up the wheels. You can skid if the wheels lock up. If that happens, let off the brakes a little. When the car stops skidding, push on the brake pedal again. Keep doing this until the car stops.

Have a good grip on the steering wheel.
Steer in the direction you want your car to go.



Speeding Up

Sometimes you can keep from crashing by speeding up. This will work if another car is about to hit you from the side or from behind. If there is room in front of you, speed up. Be sure to slow down once the danger is gone.

Turning Quickly

Most of the time you can turn your car faster than you can stop it. You should think about turning in order to keep from crashing. Have a good grip on the steering wheel. Steer in the direction you want your car to go.



You need to be ready to keep your car under control after you turn or change lanes. If you steer away from a possible crash, you could end up in another crash!

It is better to run off the road than to hit another car head-on.

Don't swerve into a lane with cars coming at you. Turn to the right. Go off the road if you need to.

Crashes with Animals

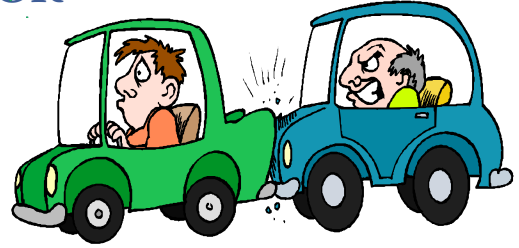
- Reduce speed in animal crossing areas
- If a herd is on the road, stop and let the herd clear the road
- Avoid high beam or flashing headlights – animals could become confused
- Do not swerve – it's better to hit an animal than to crash head-on into another vehicle
- Use controlled braking to slow down and stop
- Hold on to the steering wheel
- If a crash with an animal can't be avoided, you may reduce impact by making a glancing hit with controlled steering. Try and turn the vehicle away from the animal.
- Do not try to help the injured animal
- If the damage is \$1000 or more, Montana law requires drivers to contact law enforcement



CRASHES

Most crashes happen because of DRIVER ERROR

- They do not signal.
- They do not look.
- They drink alcohol or take drugs and then drive.
- They do not pay attention to road signs.
- They drive too fast.
- Sometimes car defects cause crashes. Sometimes a poor road, bad weather or confusing signs help to cause crashes.



Most crashes are CAUSED by ERRORS IN HUMAN JUDGMENT AND CAN BE PREVENTED.

Protect Yourself in Crashes

You may not always be able to avoid a crash. Pay attention to your driving and try everything you can to keep from crashing or getting hit. Everyone is safer wearing seat belts at all times even on short trips from home.



If you have a crash

- Stop your car. Call 911 for help
- Give help to anyone who is hurt, but don't move them
- If your car can be moved, get it off the road so it does not block traffic or cause another crash.
- Take pictures and get the names, addresses and license plate numbers of everyone involved in the crash, and also any witnesses.
- Give your name, address, car insurance, driver license number and vehicle information (make, model, year and license tag number) to other drivers in the crash and to the police.



Reporting a Crash

Parked vehicle – If you hit a parked car, you must try and find the owner. You should leave a note with your name and address on the car with the date and time of the accident.

The driver of a vehicle involved in a crash **MUST STOP**.

IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY POLICE

IF anyone is hurt or killed

OR there is apparent property damage

The **POLICE** will:

- render any necessary first aid;

- investigate and determine the cause of the crash;

- protect your property against theft or further damage from another crash.



If you were **NOT** involved, do **NOT** stop, unless a police officer or flagger tells you to, or your help is needed.

Move over to another lane to pass the accident if you can do so safely.



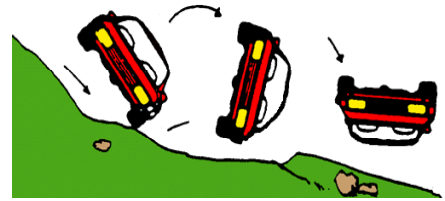
When a Crash Report Form is Required

If you have a **CRASH** where damage totals over \$1,000, or someone is hurt or killed **EACH DRIVER** must fill out a **WRITTEN REPORT TO THE HIGHWAY PATROL** unless the investigating officer filled out the accident report.

Failure to report this crash could cause your license to be suspended.

This must be done within 10 days.

The report form can be obtained from any police, sheriff or patrol officer.



The Driver Record and Control Bureau will **REVOKE** the license of anyone who is convicted of leaving the scene of a crash they were **INVOLVED** in.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Montana law requires **LIABILITY INSURANCE**.

Every vehicle owner or operator must be insured for a minimum:

\$10,000 for property damage;

\$25,000 for injuries or death for one person; and

\$50,000 for bodily injury or death of two persons in any one crash.

You can pay more for additional insurance coverage. Your **INSURANCE CARD** must be **IN** your vehicle. You may be fined if you do not carry liability insurance.

Self Test Section 8 – Emergencies

Directions: Choose only one answer

1. What should you do if your car's right wheels leave the pavement?
 - a. Stop quickly.
 - b. Pull all the way off and wait until it is safe to get back on the road.
 - c. Accelerate and steer back on the road quickly.
 - d. Take your foot off the gas and when you are slowed down ease back on the road when it is safe to do so.

2. What should you do if your accelerator sticks while driving?
 - a. Reach down and attempt to pull it up.
 - b. Shift to park.
 - c. Shift to neutral and apply steady pressure on the brake.
 - d. Turn the engine off.

3. When approaching an accident scene, you should:
 - a. Keep your attention on driving.
 - b. Keep moving.
 - c. Stop if you are involved or if emergency help has not arrived.
 - d. All of the above.

4. When involved in an accident as a driver:
 - a. Do not exchange information with other drivers.
 - b. Exchange all information with other drivers.
 - c. Deny responsibility for the accident.
 - d. Let the other driver report the accident.

5. If involved in an accident, a driver should:
 - a. Stop their vehicle at or near the scene.
 - b. Do not stand or walk in traffic lanes.
 - c. Turn off the ignition of wrecked vehicle(s).
 - d. All of the above.

6. If you become stranded in a snow storm, the best thing to do is:
 - a. Get out of the car and go for help.
 - b. Lay down in the car and go to sleep.
 - c. Keep the windows rolled up tight
 - d. Stay in the car, as you are more likely to be found

7. Every driver must have proof of vehicle liability insurance
 - a. in the vehicle when driving
 - b. at home in a safe place
 - c. for \$1,000
 - d. all of the above

8. Most traffic crashes are caused by
 - a. mechanical failures
 - b. poor driver judgment
 - c. bad roads
 - d. snow storms

9. If your car goes into a skid, you should:
 - a. not apply the brakes
 - b. release the accelerator
 - c. turn in the direction you want to go
 - d. all of the above

10. If you are involved in a crash and leave the crash scene
 - a. your license will be revoked
 - b. you may be fined up to \$20
 - c. it is all right if you are in a hurry
 - d. you will be fined and go to jail

11. When driving at night in fog or snow, you should:
 - a. use high beams
 - b. use low beams
 - c. stop until the road clears
 - d. driver faster than the speed limit

12. If you have a flat tire when driving at highway speed, you should:

- a. hit the brakes.
- b. start pulling off the road as you slow down.
- c. hold the steering wheel with one hand
- d. drive to the next exit

13. If you run off the pavement, you should:

- a. grip the steering wheel firmly.
- b. slow before steering back on the pavement.
- c. take your foot off the gas
- d. all of the above

14. You must obey all traffic signs

- a. if you have 15 points on your record
- b. at all times
- c. if you see a police officer
- d. only on weekends